

Remarks

Claims 1-27 were pending in this application. In an Office Action dated September 16, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. The Examiner also rejected claims 1-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,795,966 to Lim *et al.* (Lim). The Examiner objected to claims 8, 17, and 26 as having informalities.

Claims 1-27 have been canceled and replaced with new claims 28-40. While Applicants believe that original claims 1-27 were supported by the specifications, the terms used in new claims 28-40 have been chosen to more closely track those used in the specification.

The Examiner rejected original claims 1-27 as anticipated by Lim. Applicants disagree, as Lim discloses verifying the execution of virtual machines rather than validating data in a plurality of virtual replicas of a storage device. Likewise, Lim neither teaches nor suggests checking at least one in a sequence of mirrors-in-the-middle to see if a copy of data stored on thereon satisfies at least one constraint.

Applicants believe claims 28-40 are in appropriate condition for allowance and respectfully request that this case be passed to issuance. No fee is believed due by filing this paper. However, any fee due may be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4545.


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The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to discuss any aspect of this case.

Respectfully submitted,
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